



The Christ Courier

Volume 2 Issue 4

October, 2011

Audrey Russell, Head of School

This month, I want to share the following *reflection* I received last week from The Rev. Daniel R. Heischman, Executive Director of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. During my 20 plus years of leading Episcopal school communities, I have witnessed and dealt with many parenting trends. One of the worst, for children, has been the “self-esteem/feel good” trend in which parents want their children to NEVER experience failure, defeat, or disappointment. Fr. Heischman expresses, quite well, a very basic aspect of Episcopal schools that gives failure and disappointment meaning in life.

Is Failure Making a Comeback?

The Rev. Daniel R. Heischman, D.Min., Executive Director

In July of this year, an article appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (“How to Land Your Kid in Therapy,” by Lori Gottlieb) in which the writer claimed that the “cult of self-esteem,” including the desire to rescue our children from unhappy experiences, was not equipping young people for the tasks of adulthood. Drawing upon the sources of many writers in the field, she concluded that, in shielding them from discomfort, failure, and struggle, we are actually making it harder for our children to grow up. Then, this past week’s *New York Times Sunday Magazine* carried an article about how students’ future success and happiness may depend more on their experience with failure and setbacks than the avoidance of them (“The Character Test,” by Paul Tough, September 18, 2011).

Both of these articles have been read with great interest and already have prompted a good deal of conversation. Perhaps one of the questions emerging from these discussions might be, “Are we beginning to reacquaint ourselves with the educative value of failure?” As Mark Roosevelt, the new president of the revived Antioch College, remarks (a few pages later, in another article in this issue of the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*), “Our teachers need to tell students, ‘Trying and failing is OK.’”

It is probably too early to know, in a culture that has been quite averse to the educative value of failure, whether or not we are collectively ready to reverse course and embrace failure’s place in the development of young people. To my way of thinking, it is probably going to take more than the simple conclusions, “It is good for them,” or, “It builds character,” to stem the tide.

It will need something that—at the risk of sounding smug—Episcopal schools possess, namely, a theological context in which failure is seen and experienced as the beginning of new life. From our theological perspective, this is part of God’s pattern of redemption. We may not look forward to it, nor see its value when experiencing it, but our tradition provides the undergirding theological framework that allows failure to take its rightful place in the experiences of life and help give meaning to life.

As the prayer for young people, in the Book of Common Prayer, puts it, “Help them [young people] take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for new start.”

I would say that is a pretty sound foundation upon which to greet whatever comeback failure may be making!

Pumpkin Patch to Open Soon!!!

Christ Episcopal School is hosting Nacogdoches’ Pumpkin Patch from Sunday, Oct. 9th until Monday, Oct. 31st. The pumpkins arrive at 2:00 pm on Saturday, Oct. 8th. All hands are needed to unload them and set up the grounds. Workers are also needed to sell the pumpkins in two-hour shifts from 10:00 am to dark, Mondays through Saturdays, and noon until dark on Sundays. Please call the school office, 564-0621, to volunteer two hours of your time. Thank you!

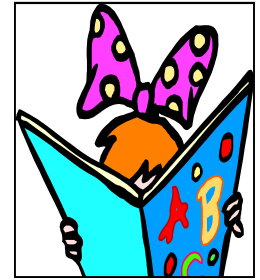




Kindergarteners “cook-up” some special treats in their classroom’s kitchen center.

Scholastic Book Fair

The annual fall Book Fair will be held from Tuesday, Oct. 4th to Friday, Oct. 7th. Books to suit children and adults will be available. Let us help you with your gift-giving—birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays.



Shop between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm each day and until 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 6th. Let us help you with your “any occasion” book gift giving.

First Six-Weeks Honor Roll Grades 3-5

Third Grade A/B Honor Roll

Jakob Cuevas

Third Grade A Honor Roll

Lily Choi, Hagan Crumpton, Adrian Pitts and Cela Wigington

Fourth Grade A Honor Roll

Brett Bohanon, Nathan Carver, Maisi Kennedy, Catherine Meisenheimer, Cosette Potter, Sydney Rankin, Jake Smith, and Jack Summers

Fifth Grade A Honor Roll

Katherine Blough, Caroline Deal, Brad Fults, Henry Gibson, Evan Leonard, Mackenley Marlow, and Sabrina White

CES Helps Nacogdoches County Volunteer Firemen

On Friday, September 16th, students helped Nacogdoches county volunteer firemen load bottled water and supplies onto their trucks.



Mission Statement

Christ Episcopal School is a diverse community of learners who participate in an enriched academic program in a nurturing Christian environment which fosters a dedication to service to others and a love of lifetime learning.

October’s Calendar of Events

Monday, Oct. 3- Friday, Oct. 7	Parent Conferences, Grades 1-5
Tuesday, Oct. 4	Student Council, 3:15 pm, Parish Hall
Tuesday, Oct. 4 - Friday, Oct. 7	Scholastic Book Fair, Bailey Room
Wednesday, Oct. 5	Faculty Mtg., 3:15 pm
Thursday, Oct. 6	Auction Mtg., 6:00 pm @ Franks of Nacogdoches
Friday, Oct. 7	Non-Uniform Dress Day (<i>Guidelines on pg. 15 of Parent/Student Handbook</i>)
Saturday, Oct. 8	Pumpkins arrive, 2:00 pm
Monday, Oct. 10	Columbus Day Holiday, NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Last Day of Otis Spunk- meyer Cookie Dough Sale
	Board Mtg., 6:00 pm, Bailey Room
Thursday, Oct. 13	Firemen Visit School Parent Assn. Mtg., 6:00 pm
Friday, Oct. 14	Pineywoods Fair Kids’ Day, K-gr. 2, leave 11:45 am
Monday, Oct. 17- Friday, Oct. 21	Science Week, schedule of events to be sent home
Friday, Oct. 21	SFA Play, <i>Let’s Go Science</i> , K-gr. 5, leave 9:00 am
Monday, Oct. 24- Friday, Oct. 28	Kindergarten Parent Confer- ences
Saturday, Oct. 29	SFA Homecoming Parade, CES Float, Meet in parking lot at 9:00 am
Monday, Oct. 31	Last day of Pumpkin Patch